

THE BROAD AX

Published Every Saturday

In this city since July 15th, 1899, without missing one single issue, Republican, Democrat, Outbiller, Protestant, Single Taxer, Priest, Infidel or anyone else can have their say as long as their language is proper and responsibility is fixed.

The Broad Ax is a newspaper whose platform is broad enough for all, ever claiming the editorial right to speak its own mind.

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HAVING FALSE IDEAS BUILT UP ON FALSE SENTIMENT.

A great many people believe everything they hear. A great many people believe everything they read. There are on the contrary, a great many people who do not believe only the very fine truths, and more of the falsities of people, and then there are a great many people who are not eager to believe everything they read, and discredit the cheap sentiment and mouthings of the gossip and the disgruntled. People do acquaint themselves of our virtues but they are slow to extol them like Anthony over the grave of great Caesar. There is a monkey-wrench in the running gear of the brain of most of our best friends. It is not jealousy, not quite envy and it cannot properly be called selfishness, it is likely that our language is not quite complete, or else some one would step forward with the missing word that is so greatly needed to use when we fail to register up to the measurement that just suits our friends, so they need not boast of our knowing them so very well, don't you know?

Well, it is not a good idea to know too much about our friends, nor know them so very intimately.

The principle has always been a good one, and to know a few people truly well is always helpful and inspiring to noble friendship. It will hardly do for the present modern day. People regard old friendships just as they do anything else that may be shopworn. In this busy no rock-a-baby era of civilization, when every fellow is after the things that give him the most pleasure or profit, when the commercial struck mind must meet with the obligations that embellish the environment and decorate the picture with the gift of ornate gold, knowing much or little about friends, or people neither enter into the mental process of reasoning or setting lines of proper or improper syntax about the graces or misconduct about somebody else. Who cares whether it is true or false, if it is slander? It is soon forgotten and the glad scene, the misfortune, or the wretch and reprobate all are cast in the junk heap of oblivion. If this were not so, ye editor might publish in the columns of this paper enough of that character destroying reminiscence of many of the apparent notables of Chicago who reeled in the days of their mischief and tottered on the very brink of hell, but now perhaps some twenty years and more, may have ripened them into good citizens, and tricky selfishness has blinded them with a mirage of greatness so that they can look down upon the rest of us little poor devils who feel it glorious to look up at them.

Sentiment, gossip nor any of that character camouflage has ever made an individual what he is or is not and although it may appear so on the surface none of these things can make or unmake a man or woman depicted and charged with a noble mission for the good of the rest of us. Nothing can

hurt or harm the individual permanently, one can be retarded, and set back temporarily by outside influence and infamous devilry, but the good in the individual will triumph in the end. The progress of our race abundantly attest to this fact.

People must surely arrive at this truth. The great White race high on its mission of civilization can not carry forward the world work without carrying along the Negro race. The infamy of its newspapers, the ugly slings and cuffs at the prostrate, helpless Negro will only arrest temporarily our redemption. The sickly, maudlin sentiment of White editors, and writers of magazines who mistake facts to build up foolish fancies, and the lying and misrepresentation of individuals now too numerous who delight in the hilarity of the mistaken ideas and notions concerning us will be run over by the overwhelming surprises of our racial status when the true facts become fully revealed to them.

So we reiterate, a great many people believe all they read, and a great many people believe all they hear, while on the contrary there are a great many people who believe only the very fine truths and none of the falsities of people.

STUBBORNNESS.

Scene: On a State street car between 47th and 35th. Car was crowded—people standing, young Colored woman sitting in second seat from the front, occupied whole seat intended for two people. White lady tried to sit down by her; was rebuffed; had to get up because said young Colored woman would not budge an inch, nor give up the ugly position she was in. She became the subject of jeers from others who were compelled to stand. Nobody had the nerve to say anything to her while she sat cross legged in the middle of the seat. Ever and anon she tossed her head, rolled her eyes, and acted as if she was mad. She was not sick, not intoxicated, and we do not believe she was really mean, but my, she must have been densely ignorant—too ignorant, really, to be nice. Where could she have come from? We have never seen anything in our lives quite like this. What is to be said? What can be said?

This young Colored woman, or lady, or something else; is capable of doing the entire race a lot of harm by such foolish and daredevil nonsense. I wish I knew her name and might get this writing before her eyes, but it is likely that she could not read it anyway.

PREJUDICE IS BORN OF IGNORANCE.

The civilized world will never know what the Colored race has to suffer just because it is colored. The circumstances and conditions over which our race has no control multiplies the anomaly of the situation. No other race could have survived the warring ordeals, tyranny and oppression with which we have been wrung through two and a half centuries. With sore and bleeding feet and with only a minimum of faith in the oppressor, and less encouragement to face the future than any other people on earth, we are burning all our bridges behind us because we don't wish to ever go back over the pitfalls and ugly chasms we had to cross to reach the high ground of a noble humanity. Hereafter we don't intend to suffer any such treatment which has been given us, and we are not going to bow low to anybody for the great things we propose to get, and we are not going to get them by asking for them.

Hostile sentiment be hanged, prejudice has always been the devil's handmaiden which has ever clouded our pathway, contemptible devilry in every ugly form has marauded our peace and happiness. We have never allowed these to deter us, nor cheat us, and if we have grown from one degree to another, it goes without saying that all the years of this vile use of race prejudice the oppressor has simply played into our hand.

What the Negro soldier is doing in France, and what our well behaved and industrious as well as ingenious race is doing at home will open the eyes of the civilized world to the fact that in spite of all that has been done against us, we show a superior kind of noble

man and womanhood nowhere to be found outside of a dark complexion.

If the mean and ugly disposition of the poor Whites were centered in the accomplishment of their own progress in the same ratio that the Negro is concentrating his strength and energy to break over the terrible conflict of racial animosity would die its hundred deaths and prejudice would become one of the forgotten arts of devilish fools who think a white skin is all one needs to have on earth.

Unfortunately prejudice is born of ignorance and while ignorance abounds and flourishes with audacity respectable sentiments will necessarily languish. Why race prejudice? Why should people be ignorant in this enlightened age? And why should White people be ignorant with so many centuries of enlightenment?

TRUST GOD.

By Dr. M. A. Majors.

When you've shot at the mark and missed the bull's-eye,
Of course you want to hear the gong.
But by shooting right on if you're not too shy,
The bell may ring 'ere long.

Don't get in your nut that failure is due,
And that you have done your best.
You must think of the guys who will point at you;
Holy Gee, come poke out your chest.

You are not all in till you've closed your eye;
Till you've turned up your toes for the sod,
And maybe not then if you're not too shy
To play your last trump: "Trust God."

You should never admit that quitting was wise,
That the game was unlucky and tough,
That you got a cold deal; if the spark's in your eye,
You'll win yet, "Trust God," that's enough.

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